紫色の潔白

Purple Innocence

DO NOT REDISTRIBUTE OUTSIDE IRC WITHOUT PERMISSION.

I'LL BE WATCHING...

REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA!!

HANDS OFF!
3
KASANE KATSUMOTO
TOKYOPOP

SPALDI

Volume 3

by

Kasane Katsumoto

TOKYOPOP

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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Created by Kasane Katsumoto

Translation - Asuka Yoshizu
English Adaptation - Lianne Sentar
Copy Editor - Suzanne Waldman
Retouch and Lettering - Benchcomix
Production Artist - Jason Milligan
Cover Design - Seth Cable

Editor - Lillian Diaz-Przybyl
Digital Imaging Manager - Chris Buford
Pre-Press Manager - Antonio DePietro
Production Managers - Jennifer Miller and Mutsumi Miyazaki
Art Director - Matt Alford
Managing Editor - Jill Freshney
VP of Production - Ron Klamert
Editor-in-Chief - Mike Kiley
President and C.O.O. - John Parker
Publisher and C.E.O. - Stuart Levy

A TOKYOPOP Manga

TOKYOPOP Inc.
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

E-mail: info@TOKYOPOP.com
Come visit us online at www.TOKYOPOP.com

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CHARACTERS & STORY

YUTO UKUSHIYAMA
浮山佑人

A classmate to Kotarou and Tatsuki. Friendly but a bit of a goofball, Yuuto can analyze people by reading their emotional auras (and hence is also an ESPer). He's noticed that Kotarou and Tatsuki have mysterious powers of their own.

After transferring to Tokyo to escape his depressingly backwater country high school, Kotarou Oohira has a problem. It's not just that he can't understand Tatsuki's hatred toward him, or that Yuuto can be more than a touch aggravating at times... but the boy is swiftly proving that he sports a bull's-eye on his back. If there's trouble in Tokyo, you can bet it'll find Kotarou, and soon after Tatsuki and Yuuto must run to his rescue. And is this frustrating for a hero who's desperate to disprove his girliness? It is indeed.

Despite some dangerous run-ins w/ school events and in the city, Kotarou's managed to find himself a girlfriend. Mio is sweet, understanding and even a year older... and despite the fact that her devious friend Chiaki has her team disappeared, Mio now joins the ranks of Kotarou's noble defenders. She's becoming intrigued with Tatsuki, and even more intrigued with his relationship to her loving little boyfriend.

TATSUKI OOHIRA
大平竜樹

Kotarou's cousin. Kotarou unknowingly gave him postcognition when they were kids, since Tatsuki hates the power, he's less than friendly toward Kotarou.

KOTARO OOHIRA
大平虎太郎

A high school freshman who despises his own pretty face and girly mannerisms. Has a mysterious touch-based ESP, but doesn't know it. Currently dating Mio.

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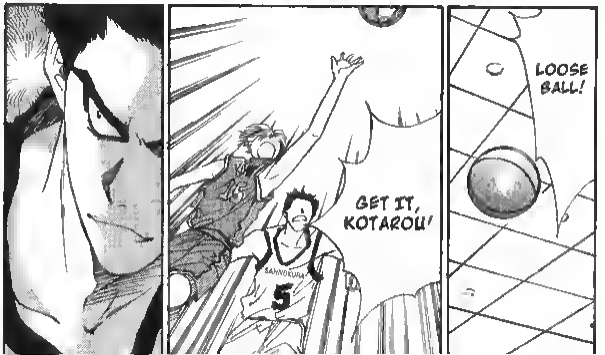
ACT 8

ACT 8

AND I THOUGHT CHICKS WEREN'T ALLOWED ON COURT
THAT PUNKASS MINAMI
SHIT.
SINCE WHEN CAN FRESHMEN PLAY WORTH A DAMN?
SANNOKURA
OKURA

WE'LL PULL THE PIN WE CAN REACH.
FORGET MINAMI


GET IT, KOTAROU!
LOOSE BALL!
SANNOKURA
5

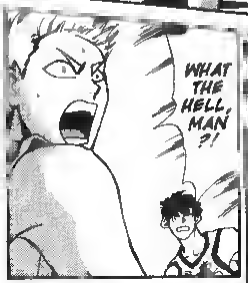
WELL DONE, MINAMI!
AND A SLAMMIN' ASSIST FROM OOHIRA!
YAAAY, KOTAROU!
LIKE A KNIFE THROUGH BUTTER, BABY!
THE BOY IS MONEY!
BOOOOO-YAAAAH!

MY...
OW!
OOHIRA!
GHCK!

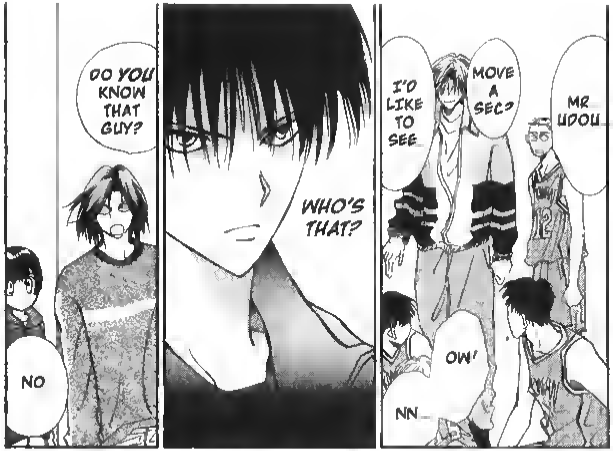
EASY, MINAMI!
YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A REF TO ME.
YOU RAN INTO HIM ON PURPOSE, ASSHOLE!

MINAMI!
WIPE THAT GRIN OFF YOUR MUG!
YOU WANT A FIST DOWN THE THROAT?
HUH?
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?

AAGH!


WHAT THE HELL, MAN?!

KOTAROU!
!


DO YOU KNOW THAT GUY?
NO
WHO'S THAT?
I'D LIKE TO SEE
MOVE A SEC?
MR UDOU
OW!
NN

Y-YEAH
HERE, IS IT?
HUH?

THIS ISN'T HOW WE FIX PROBLEMS, TOUGH GUY.

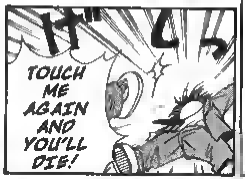
ACT 8

HANG ON.
IT...IT'S FINE
IT DOESN'T HURT ANYMORE!
FOR REAL?
TRY STANDING
ACK!
IT FEELS AWESOME!
DAMN OOHIRA
DON'T SCARE US LIKE THAT.
WHO WAS THAT GUY?
WHO, HIM?
GIVE 'EM HELL!
GRR...
PLAYERS BACK ON THE COURT, PLEASE!
SANNOKURA
10
5

IT'S GETTING... WARM.
BUT HOW THE HECK COULD THAT HAPPEN?
KOWAN
15

WHA?
GIVE IT A TRY.

WHAT'RE YOU SO HAPPY ABOUT?
Shh! got it ♡
HAPPY? OH, I'D SAY MORE ALONG THE LINES OF ELATED, MY BOY.
WE'RE GETTING A NEW STUDENT TEACHER TODAY, AND MY MONEY'S ON SOMETHING HOT AND FEMININE



*"OLD BOY" IN JAPANESE SCHOOLS, CALLING AN ALUMNUS "OB" AND AN ALUMNA "OG" (OLD G.R.L. IS COMMON

ONE CAN ONLY ASSUME HE MAINTAINS VILLAINOUS THOUGHTS TOWARD THESE INNOCENT SCHOOLGIRLS!
WHY, I OUGHTTA
clench
AND THAT MAN IS NOT ATTRACTIVE!
LOOK AT THAT SMILE! LECHERY, LECHERY!

ANSWER WHEN I CALL YOUR NAME, OKAY?
I'M GOING TO TAKE ATTENDANCE
HUH?
I CAN'T SEE HIS AURA...
WAIT A SEC.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
LET GO OF ME, FREAK-SHOW!
WHAT?!

!!

IT'S THAT GUY!

HE'S AN ALUMNUS FROM THE BASKETBALL TEAM
This rocks!
He's totally hot!
KOTAROU, DO YOU KNOW HIM?
HE CAN TEACH ME PHYS ED ANYTIME!
MY POOR, SHEIVELED HEART
grr
grr

MY NAME IS KOUICHI UDOU
I'M WORKING TOWARD CERTIFICATION IN HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU ALL.

HERE.
SHIKI

NEXT
URUSHI-YAMA?
I STILL CAN'T SEE IT!
B-BUT I'M TOUCHING KOTAROU!

I WAS JUST KIDDING. YOU'RE ADORABLE, YOU KNOW THAT?
EASY, OOHIRA!
Ha ha
DAMMIT ALL TO HELL!
WAH HA HA HA!
Yuto-death!

UNLESS THEY'RE, Y'KNOW
UM, IS THAT URUSHIYAMA? WHY'S HE HOLDING HANDS WITH A BOY?

WE'RE NOTHING LIKE "Y'KNOW!"
W-W-W-W-

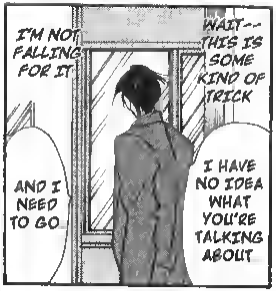
WHICH ONE OF YOU IS TATSUKI?
IT LOOKS LIKE WE HAVE ANOTHER OOHIRA HERE.
WELL, WELL

DON'T YOU LOOK THE TORTURED SOUL.
HEY.
MY MAJOR'S PSYCHOLOGY
WHAT'S THE MATTER? GIRL TROUBLE?
I COULD COUNSEL YOU IF YOU'D LIKE.
Hee hee!
No way.
Tatsuki's such a good student!
AH, SORRY OF COURSE!
UDOU, PLEASE HURRY WITH THE ROLL
HE'S EVEN HOTTER WHEN HE'S BAD
Hee hee!
So cute!
MMM.

COUSINS, HUH?
THEY'RE COMPLETE OPPOSITES
TATSUKI OOHIRA HIGH-ACHIEVING AND POLITE, HE STILL DISLIKES COOPERATING
KOTAROU OOHIRA CHEERFUL AND ACTIVE, HE APPEARS VERY SOCIAL BUT LACKS COMPOSURE
YOU'RE A POSTCOG, AM I RIGHT?
!
PAT
HE'S GREAT? WHY, THANK YOU
GEH!
HEY, TATSUKI.
Y'KNOW THAT UDOU GUY? I THINK--
WHAT'D HE JUST WHISPER AT YOU?
.....
COME SEE ME IF YOU WANT TO TALK
I'M IN THE HEALTH ROOM
"!

TELL ME SOMETHING. WHEN YOU TOUCH THAT COUSIN OF YOURS...
WHAT?
...IS IT ONLY THE WORST OF PEOPLE YOU SEE?
H-HE KNOWS?!

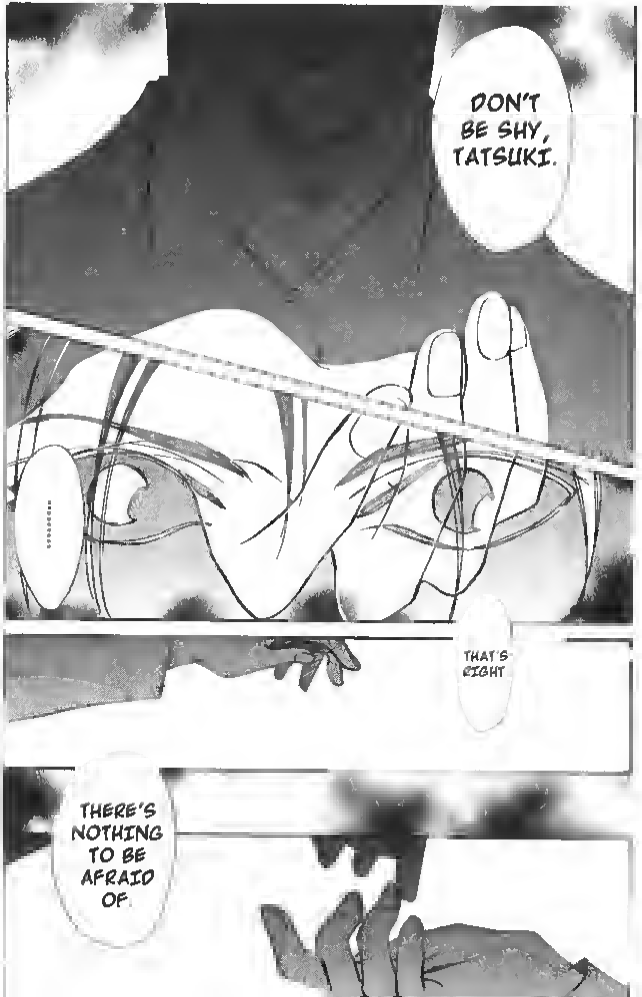
DO YOU HONESTLY THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY PSYCHIC ON THE PLANET?
!


I'M NOT FALLING FOR IT.
AND I NEED TO GO.
WAIT-- THIS IS SOME KIND OF TRICK
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT

COME IN, OOHIRA.
HEALTH OFFIC
RATTLE
WELL, WELL LOOK WHO BIT THE BULLET
!

SO HE HATES BEING TOUCHED
NOT THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND. OF COURSE

GET YOUR DAMN HANDS OFF!


DON'T BE SHY, TATSUKI.
.....
THAT'S RIGHT
THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF.

I BET YOU STAY UP AT NIGHT THINKING ABOUT A NORMAL LIFE.
!

COME ON
.....
GIVE ME YOUR HAND
AND WHAT ARE YOU
I-I DON'T FOLLOW.
WHO IS THIS GUY?

ばっ
バターバター…
……
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
I DIDN'T JUST.
HE ACTUALLY KNEW ABOUT ME!
DAMMIT
WHY DO I FEEL SO RELIEVED?
はあ

HE'S WARM…
WEIRD.
I'M NOT WORRIED ANYMORE…
MY BODY'S… RELAXING! SOMEHOW.

WHAT...?
THEN WHERE IS IT? LOOK, BITCH--
I PUT IT RIGHT IN THERE!
Someone call the authorities!
DON'T CALL ME BITCH, BUTCH!

GREAT. IF I TOUCH HIM...
YOU ALWAYS DO STUFF LIKE THIS!
ARGH!
I'M OUT
CRICK
HMPH

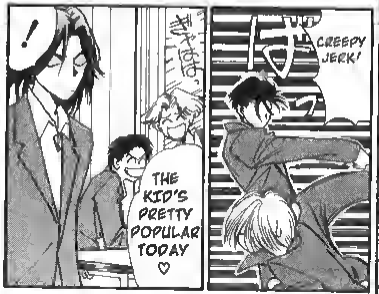
COME ON, GIRLS!
STOP FIGHTING AND JUST LOOK FOR IT AGAIN

KOTAROU'S BUTTING HIS HEAD INTO A CAT FIGHT
TATSUKI! RIGHT ON TIME, MAN
WANNA HELP OUT BEFORE HE'S MURDERED?
THIS DOESN'T CONCERN YOU, SQUEAKER!
ACK!

QUIT LYING, ALL RIGHT?!
I SAID I DION'T!
I KNOW YOU TOOK IT!
I ALREADY GAVE IT BACK TO YOU!

Scary
.....
I'M GUESSING ONE OF THEM JUST DROPPED IT SOMEWHERE
KITAGAWA'S RING'S MISSING THEY'RE BOTH SURE THE OTHER HAS IT

ACT 8


!
THE KID'S PRETTY POPULAR TODAY ♡

CREEPY JERK!

TATSUKI LOOKS MORE ANGSTY THAN USUAL
WHAT'S HE DOING?

AND NOT JUST ABOUT BEING ALIVE, EITHER
HE'S UPSET.
BACK OFF!

TA-TSU-KI!
REMOVE THE HANDS OR I KILL YOU IN YOUR SLEEP!

きゃっ
!!

B-BUT WHY?
I STILL CAN'T SEE?

ACT 8

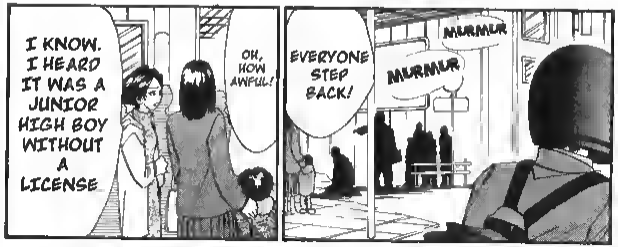
WHERE'D YOU RUN TO EARLIER?
HEY. I'VE BEEN MEANING TO ASK YOU..
HA HA! GUESS WHAT?
THOSE CHICKS FOUND THE RING.
IT WAS STUCK IN KITAGAWA'S NOTEBOOK SOMEWHERE.
DID YOU TALK TO UDOU?
.....

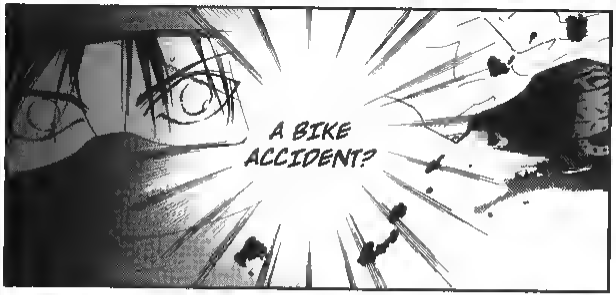
FINE
I GUESS IT'S TIME TO FIND OUT!
BINGO.
DD//
SO THAT'S WHAT'S BEEN GETTING TO YOU, SMILEY.
I WONDER WHAT UDOU COULD DO TO THROW YOU OF ALL PEOPLE OFF?

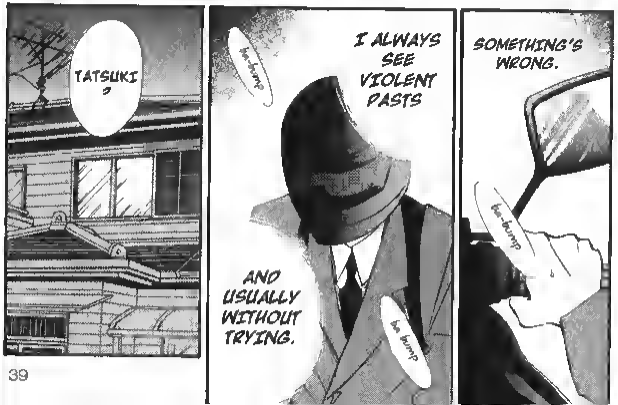
WAIT.
I BET YOU STAY UP AT NIGHT THINKING ABOUT A NORMAL LIFE.

UDOU.
DID HE DO SOMETHING?

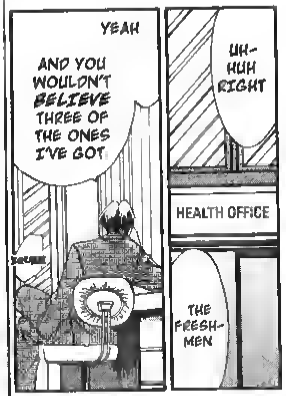
WHY CAN'T I SEE THE PAST?
TOUCHING KOTAROU NEVER FAILED BEFORE.


I KNOW. I HEARD IT WAS A JUNIOR HIGH BOY WITHOUT A LICENSE
OH, HOW AWFUL!
EVERYONE STEP BACK!
MURMUR
MURMUR


A BIKE ACCIDENT?


TATSUKI ?
I ALWAYS SEE VIOLENT PASTS
ba-bump
AND USUALLY WITHOUT TRYING.
ba-bump
SOMETHING'S WRONG.
ba-bump

AT LEAST, LIKE YOU WERE BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL.

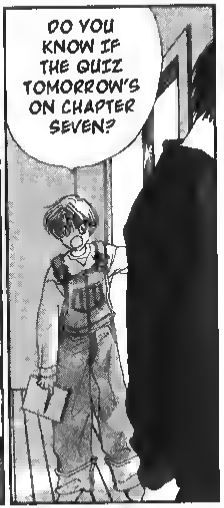

YEAH
AND YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THREE OF THE ONES I'VE GOT.
UH-HUH RIGHT
HEALTH OFFICE
THE FRESH-MEN

ONE OF THEM'S JUST LIKE YOU, MAN

WHAT DID YOU DO?
UDOU...
DAMN.
THE STUDENT TEACHER CAN CATCH SOME MAJOR AIR.
WOOOOW!!
Killer!
UDOU-SENSEI* IS SOOO AMAZING!
*DENOTING UDOU'S POSITION AS A TEACHER

WHAT ?
?

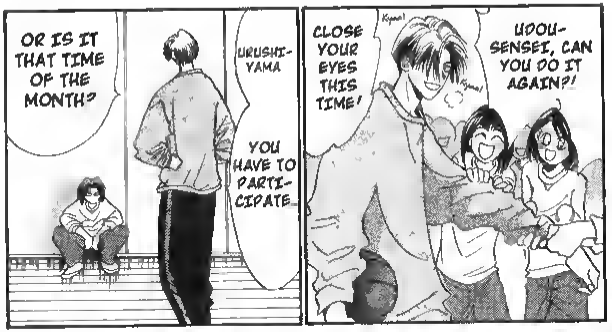
WHOA!


DO YOU KNOW IF THE QUIZ TOMORROW'S ON CHAPTER SEVEN?

MY POWER'S GONE.
I'M SURE OF IT.
GOD, I'VE HAD IT!
hah
hah

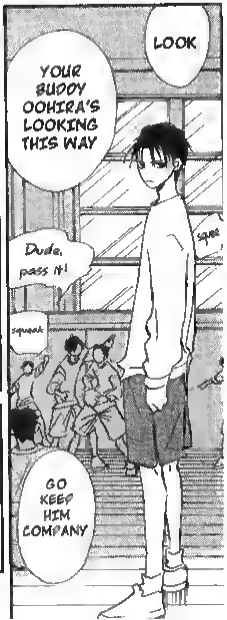
L-LEGGO OF ME!
I DIDN'T EVEN--AGH!

WOW, YUUTO'S SUCH A PERV!
WATCH OUT FOR THIS GUY.
THAT ARROGANT, BULL-SPITTING SKIRT-CHASER!
Ha ha!
Woo!
51% of the world not enough for you?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS BRUSH-OFF GARBAGE!
I'M NOT QUITTING UNTIL I FIND OUT WHAT YOU'RE HIDING, UDOU.
DO YOU HEAR ME? AND YOUR STYLIST MISSED YOUR ROOTS!

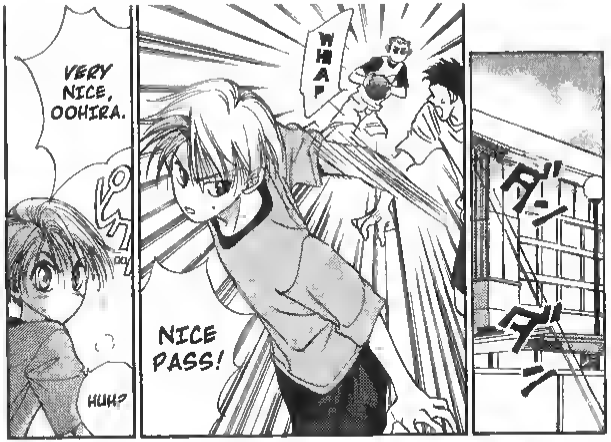

OR IS IT THAT TIME OF THE MONTH?
URUSHI-YAMA
YOU HAVE TO PARTI-CIPATE
CLOSE YOUR EYES THIS TIME!
Kyaa!
UDOU-SENSEI, CAN YOU DO IT AGAIN?!

LET'S SEE THAT AURA!
THAT'S RIGHT-- CLOSER!
YOU DON'T HAPPEN TO KNOW HIS SECRET, DO YOU?
HANG ON A SEC, SENSEI. YOU SEEM AWFULLY INTERESTED IN TATSUKI.

SORRY
I'M FLATTERED, REALLY-- BUT I'M AFRAID YOU'RE NOT MY TYPE.


LOOK
YOUR BUDDY OOHIRA'S LOOKING THIS WAY
Dude, pass it!
squeak
squeak
GO KEEP HIM COMPANY

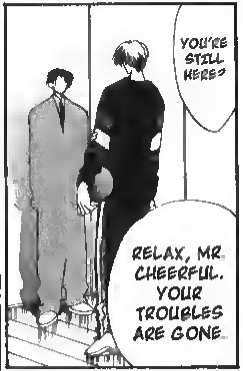
HEY!
THERE.
YAAAAAAAAH!
WHAT'S THIS?
NO WRESTLING?
AM I DOING IT WRONG? MAYBE I NEED SKIN CONTACT
YUUTO, LET GO! I DIDN'T--
DON'T TOUCH ME!
DAMN.
I STILL CAN'T SEE UDOU'S AURA. WHY?
I'M TOUCHING KOTAROU, FOR GOD'S SAKE!
UM, ARE YOU OKAY?
MIO!
Did she see that?!
haah
gasp
KOTAROU?


VERY NICE, OOHIRA.
HUH?
WHAP
NICE PASS!

NARCISSISTIC PRICK!
NOW, NOW I'M SURE THEY'RE JUST INSPIRED BY YOUR PERFORMANCE.
Huh.
I'M TRYING TO GET THEM TO JOIN MY ATHLETIC CLUB
DON'T TRUST A WORD THEY SAY, SENSEI!
NOW THE FREAK BRIGADE'S AFTER YOU?

THIS IS FOR ME?
It's cute!
YEAH IT'S A VICTORY AMULET
YOU KNOW, FOR THE GAME

LET ME GUESS-- NOW YOU'RE MORE CONFUSED THAN RELIEVED
JINX
BUT YOU CAN'T REALLY GET MAD, BECAUSE IT IS WHAT YOU WANTED
SOMETHING LIKE THAT?


YOU'RE STILL HERE?
RELAX, MR. CHEERFUL. YOUR TROUBLES ARE GONE

.....

JUST BE CAREFUL, OOHIRA.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THINGS WILL ONLY GET WORSE.

IT WAS MY POWER'S FAULT.
EVERYTHING I'S IN...
EVERYTHING I FELT...

BUT NOW YOU'LL SEE WHETHER WHAT YOU WANT IS REALLY A GOOD THING

ALL RIGHT, LINE UP!
WOO!
SEE YOU.

ACT 8
WHAT?
Scared me
HEY.
!
OH!
THAT'S THE AMULET MIO GAVE ME.
THIS THING YOURS?
I CAN'T BELIEVE I DROPPED IT!
YEAH, IT'S MINE

AND THEN CAME THE MORNING OF KOTAROU'S GAME DEBUT
AND OOHIRA WITH ANOTHER STEAL-- CAN NOTHING STOP THIS MAN?!
Wow!
Ooh!
I'M GONNA OWN THAT COURT LIKE A LANDLORD AFTER RENT!
YOU'RE MY HERO, KOTAROU! ♡
Taller than Ichi
IMAGERY PREP
I'M KING OF THE WORLD, KING OF THE WORLD!
THIS IS IT, ME
CRACKLE
PSYCHING UP

THINGS WEREN'T ALWAYS LIKE THIS
MAYBE THEN I...
.....
COULD I GO BACK?
IF THE POWER'S REALLY GONE...
IF I NEVER SEE THE PAST...

IF...
HUH
.....
Wait... wonder...

ACT 8

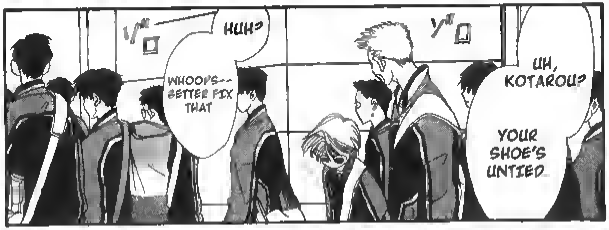
WELL, WELL, LOOK WHO FELL BEHIND.
HEH.
WHERE'S YOUR PRECIOUS TEAM NOW?

UH-OH.
THIS ONE'S YOURS, GUYS. BE GENTLE.
GOT IT.

SH-SHIT!

SORRY, PIP-SQUEAK
MINAMI THE BEAST'S NOT HERE.
HUH?

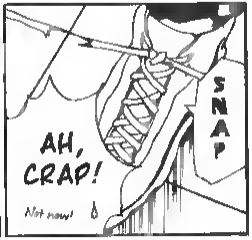
I CAN SMELL THAT GYM FLOOR!
WOO BABY YEAH!


HUH?
WHOOP'S-- BETTER FIX THAT
UH, KOTAROU?
YOUR SHOE'S UNTIED.

MINE JUST...

squeak
HEY, MINAMI ? DO YOU HAVE AN EXTRA SHOELACE?

YAWN


SNAP
AH, CRAP!
Not now!

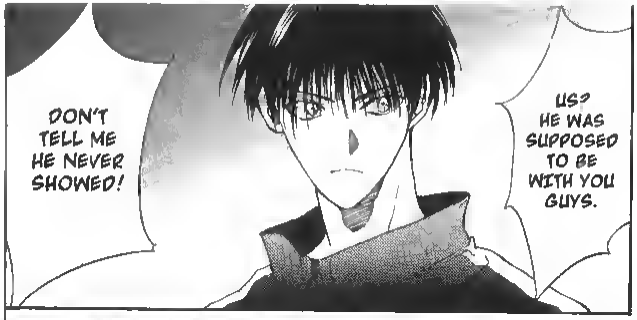
NOTHING PERSONAL, KID. I'M JUST DOING WHAT I'M TOLD
OUR TEAM'S NOT A BIG FAN OF YOURS, Y'KNOW?
BUT DON'T WORRY-- I'LL LET YOU GO WHEN THE GAME'S OUT.

IT SHOULDN'T BE MORE THAN TWO HOURS.
YOU'LL BE FREE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT!
DAMMIT!!
THESE STUPID CHEATING JERKS!
THIS WAS MY FIRST GAME, AND THE TEAM NEEDED ME!
SHIT SHIT SHIT SHIT!

UM, IF YOU GIVE THEM THE KEY, THEY CAN DO IT THEMSELVES.
THEY WANNA MOVE OUR BUS IN THE PARKING LOT.
OH-- BE RIGHT THERE.
SANNOKURA HIGH SCHOOL ANTEROOM
COACH

I SEE. PASS THIS ALONG, THEN.
clink
I WILL

ONE PAIN IN THE ASS, AS ORDERED!
THAT WAS EASIER THAN I THOUGHT.

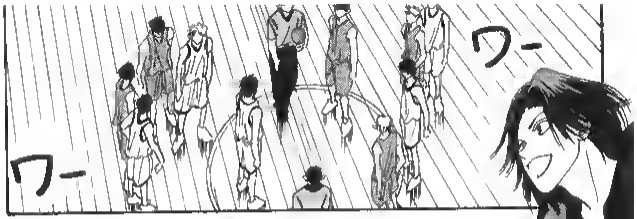

DON'T TELL ME HE NEVER SHOWED!
US? HE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE WITH YOU GUYS.

ガラッ
HUH?
TAISUKI!

!

HANG ON A SEC
NO, HE DEFINITELY CAME TO THE GAME WITH US
YOU LOST HIM?!
OH, MAN..

THOSE GUYS FROM THE OTHER DAY
THERE
SANNOKURA
10
8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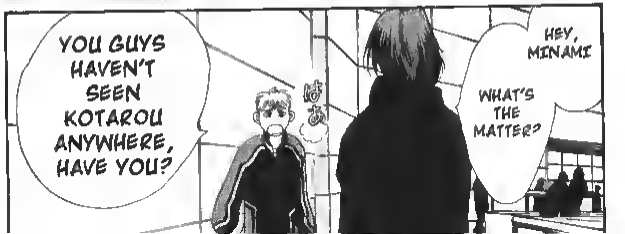
HE'S NOT ON THE BENCH, EITHER
THAT'S WEIRD. WHERE'D HE RUN OFF TO?
WHERE'S KOTAROU?
HUH?
I THOUGHT HE WAS STARTING
UM, HEY.
SWEET
IT'S JUST STARTING--WE DIDN'T MISS TIP-OFF.
UKUSHI-YAMA!


YOU GUYS HAVEN'T SEEN KOTAROU ANYWHERE, HAVE YOU?
HEY, MINAMI
WHAT'S THE MATTER?

!
MURMUR
WHERE'S KOTAROU?
TATSUKI, YOU IDIOT--CUT IT OUT!
HE PROBABLY COULDN'T TAKE THE PRESSURE AND BOLTED
OH, MAN I THINK TATSUKI'S RIGHT
SANNOKURA 8
THAT'S PRIDE, PANIC AND FEAR
SANNOKURA 5
HOW THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW?
WHO? OH, THE GIRLIE KID
YELLOW, ORANGE AND BLUE-GREEN...
C'MON, MAN
LET'S GO LOOK FOR HIM
MURMUR
MURMUR
ALL RIGHT, KIDS.
UNLESS YOU WANT A FORFEITED GAME, I SUGGEST YOU LEAVE THE COURT

!!
ガッ
HEY!

TATSUKI!
Who's that?
!
WHERE IS HE?
WHAT THE HELL, ASSHOLE?!

THAT'S THE CHARM I GAVE KOTAROU
WHY IS THERE BLOOD ON IT?!
HUH?
OH MY GOD!
I'M SURE I SEWED ON THE BASKETBALL MYSELF.
Look.
YOU SURE THAT'S THE ONE?
HE'S NEARBY, THEN.
UNLESS THEY MOVED HIM. IF IT'S BEEN A WHILE... SHIT!

HEY!
GRAMPA, GUESS WHAT?
I GET TO START TODAY!
WE DON'T REALLY WANNA FORFEIT THIS GAME, RIGHT?
KOTAROU'D BE REALLY UPSET
I NEED A CLUE.
WHERE IS HE?
!
DAMN.

BUT AFTER ALL THAT WORK, THESE PISSLICKS HAD TO CHEAT!
WE WORKED OUR ASSES OFF FOR THIS GAME
SAN NO KU
WHERE?
G-GODDAMMIT!
WHERE ARE YOU?

I'M SORRY, GUYS.
I'M SORRY, MINAMI!

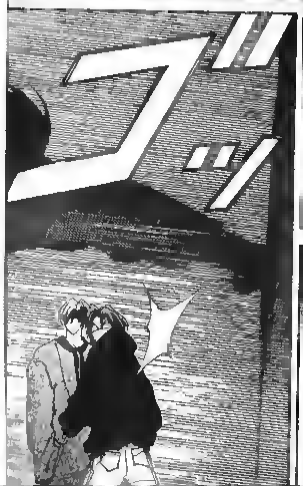
TATSUKI!
I CAN'T SEE THE PAST ANYMORE.

THAT GUY ALMOST NEVER BREAKS A SWEAT.
WHAT'S HE SO JUMPY ABOUT?

WHY AM I...
DAMMIT!
AFTER EVERYTHING..
WHY AM I DOING THIS?!

haa
haah
haa
WHERE ARE YOU, KOTAROU?!
JUST BE CAREFUL, OOHIRA.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT THINGS WILL ONLY GET WORSE.
YEEK!

UDOU!


ﾌﾞﾁｭｯ

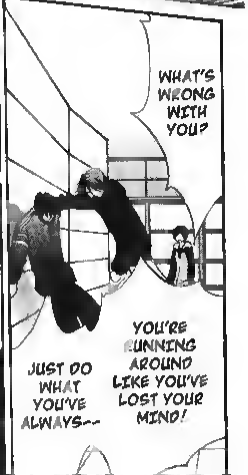
YOU ASS-HOLE!
WHAT'D YOU DO TO TATSUKI?!

HE KNEW.
UDOU DID THIS TO ME... WHEN HE KNEW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.
AND I CAN'T EVEN...

FOR GOD'S SAKE, TATSUKI!
CALM THE HELL DOWN!

WAIT. UNLESS YOU...
... CAN'T?

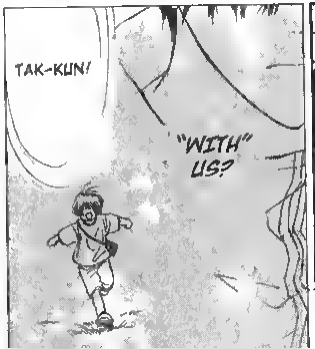
WOW. THIS LOOKS LIKE A REAL MESS.
!


WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
YOU'RE RUNNING AROUND LIKE YOU'VE LOST YOUR MIND!
JUST DO WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS--

IT'S GONNA EATCHA! HA HA HA HA!
WHENEVER KOTA SMILED.
TAK-KUN, LOOK!
SEE WHAT I JUST GOT!
A STAG BEETLE! ISN'T IT HUGE?
JUST THAT ALONE MADE ME HAPPY.

Scram! Gra!
I ALWAYS...
BECAUSE I NEVER WANTED HIM TO STOP...

DAMMIT!
CUT IT OUT, TATSUKI!
KOTA
WHERE ARE YOU?!


TAK-KUN!
"WITH" US?

HEY
DID YOU JUST
WHAT'S WITH YOU AND KOTAROU, ANYWAY?

KOTAROU!
WHERE ARE YOU?!

BUT I CAN'T.
I SAVED HIM BEFORE
...BUT NOW I JUST... CAN'T

GOD-DAMMIT!

I'LL ALWAYS...

POOR TATSUKI

TATSUKI?

KOTA?
WHERE?
!
HERE!
TAK-KUN!
CAN YOU HEAR ME?
TATSUKI!
HUH?
WAS THAT TATSUKI'S VOICE?
I'M HERE!
TATSUKI, I'M IN HERE!

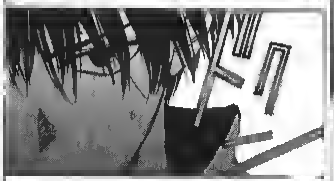
HIS AURA'S CHANGED.
THAT GLOWING'S REALLY... WEIRD.
IS HE OKAY?

Ba-bump
UM, TATSUKI ?
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?

HUH?
SANNO-KURA'S BASKETBALL TEAM
THEY BROUGHT TWO OTHERS
THREE OF THEM

THIS IS LIKE THAT OTHER TIME.
WHEN HE WOKE UP IN THE HOSPITAL...

WAIT A SECOND.
DID HE JUST GET HIS POWER BACK?



HEY!
DO YOU MEAN KOTAROU'S OUT--

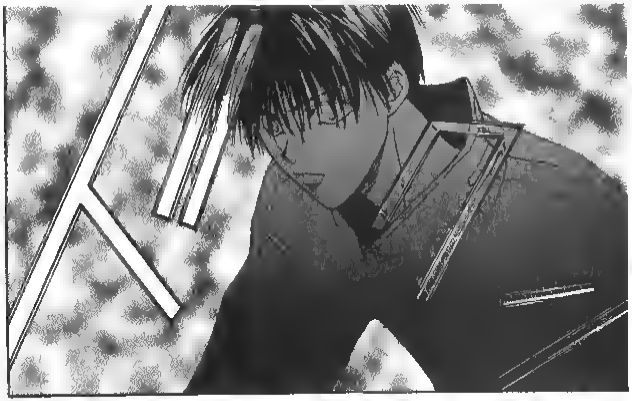
THEY WENT OUTSIDE.
THE BACK DOOR.

WHAT THE HELL?!
CLICK
CRAP, WHO IS IT NOW?!
HUH?
!
?!
!!
TATSUKI!
YOU CAN'T JUST--

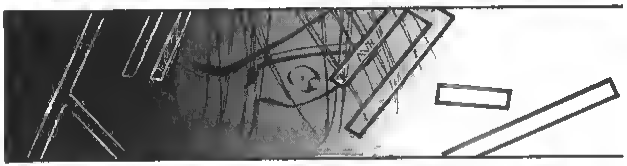
I DIDN'T WANT HIM TO SEE ME CRY.
YOU OKAY?
D-DAMMIT.
TATSUKI...!

MY POWER.
I CAN USE IT TO SAVE HIM...
...BUT THEN I CAN'T GET CLOSE.
IT'S ONE OR THE OTHER.

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.



HA HA!
JUST BEHAVE AND YOU'LL BE FINE, KID.

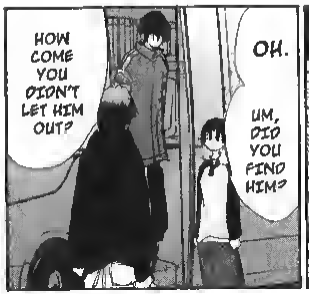


HUH?
SQUEK

NOW DO YOU SEE WHAT I MEAN?

.....

A LOT.
YOU DO REMIND ME OF HIM.


HOW COME YOU DIDN'T LET HIM OUT?
OH.
UM, DID YOU FIND HIM?

KATSUKI?
TATSUKI

TATSUKI

WHAT IS IT WITH YOU AND MAKING YOURSELF UPSET?
IT'S LIKE YOU'RE BEYOND SAD.
AND YOUR AURA'S BLUE.

I DON'T GET IT.
YOU AND KOTAROU... CONFUSE ME.

HEY, KID!
TATSUKI...
YOU ALIVE?

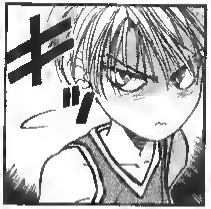
HA HA HA HA!
NO WAY THAT IS A DUDE!
LOOKS LIKE KONAN'S SWAPPED SOME PLAYERS
HEY, WHO'S THAT ELF KID?

LEAVE THIS ONE TO ME
!
pat
UOOU!

UM RIGHT

!
I GUESS WE'VE CONFIRMED OUR CREEPS
WELL, WELL LOOK WHO'S GETTING PANICKY
SO IT WAS THEM, I TAKE IT?

CRAP
HE GOT OUT
THE SHRIMP!

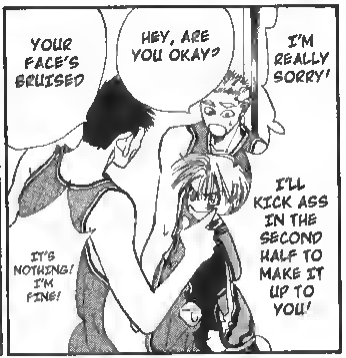


..ERK.

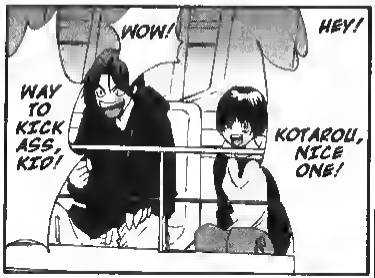
OOHIRA!
JEEZ, KOTAROU!
WHERE THE HELL'VE YOU BEEN?!

I'M HERE, I'M HERE!
I'M SORRY I'M SO LATE!

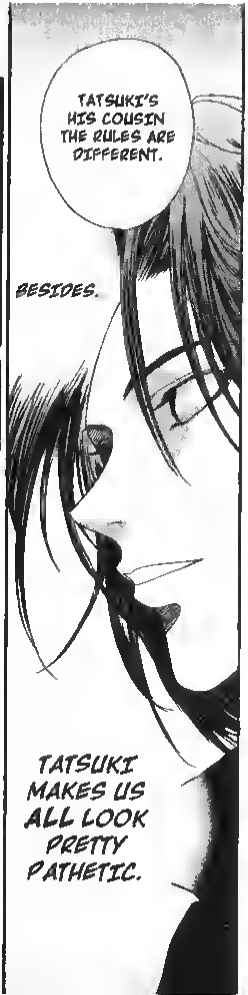
YES, SIR!
YOU CAN START AFTER HALFTIME
SOUND OKAY?


YOUR FACE'S BRUISED
HEY, ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M REALLY SORRY!
IT'S NOTHING! I'M FINE!
I'LL KICK ASS IN THE SECOND HALF TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU!

ACT 8


WOW!
HEY!
WAY TO KICK ASS, KID!
KOTAROU, NICE ONE!

SHOW THOSE PUNKERS WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF!
10


TATSUKI'S HIS COUSIN THE RULES ARE DIFFERENT.
BESIDES,
TATSUKI MAKES US ALL LOOK PRETTY PATHETIC.

TATSUKI DOESN'T SEEM THE TYPE TO CRY IN PUBLIC.
I ADMIT I'M SURPRISED.

..HOW MUCH TATSUKI REALLY CARES ABOUT HIM.
I WONDER IF KOTAROU REALIZES...

C'MON, MIO. YOU'RE KOTAROU'S LADY!
YOU'RE AN AWESOME GIRLFRIEND AND HE'S LUCKY TO HAVE YOU.
YOU KNOW.
TATSUKI'S SO MUCH STRONGER THAN ME.

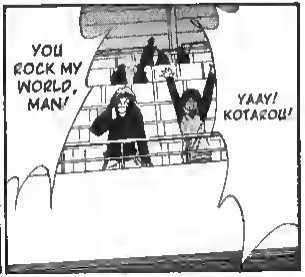
HUH?
I.
I FEEL SO HELPLESS

IN THE END...
...THE GAME WAS FORFEITED IN OUR FAVOR, ANYWAY.
UDOU EXPOSED THE GUYS WHO GRABBED ME, AND SANNOKURA GOT KICKED OUT OF THE COMPETITION.

THAT'S A FACT NOBODY CAN CHANGE.
BUT WHATEVER. WE STILL SCHOOLED THEIR SORRY ASSES.

KONAN
SANNOKURA
54
HA HA! GO, US!
VICTORY FOR THE UNDER-DOGS!

I KNOW! HA HA HA!


YOU ROCK MY WORLD, MAN!
YAAY! KOTAROU!

ACT 8

COME TO THE HEALTH ROOM LATER, OKAY?
HEY.
WHO?
ME?
BUT FORGET ABOUT ME
I'LL NEVER GET TALL ENOUGH TO MAKE THE NBA!
If that's what you mean.
AND I NEVER GOT TO SEE HIS AURA, EITHER.
WHAT A WASTE
SIGH
HUH?
YOU'VE EARNED YOURSELF A PEEK.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WHAT NOW?
FINE, WHATEVER

CAN'T YOU AT LEAST STAY UNTIL I'M 18?
SNIFF
AW, NO!
WE'LL MISS YOU, SENSEI!
AND YOU
FAT
GOOD LUCK, SENSEI
I KNOW, I KNOW.
BUT HANDS OFF THE LADIES
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING, KIOS
SO IN CONCLUSION, I HAD MORE FUN THAN SHOULD BE PERMISSIBLE BY LAW
G--GOOD-BYE, SENSEI
I'M KEEPING MY EYE ON YOU, OOHIRA.

AH-HA.
LOOK WHO I FOUND.

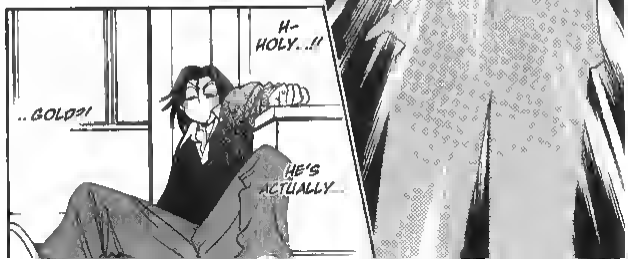
YOU DON'T WANT TO SAY GOODBYE?

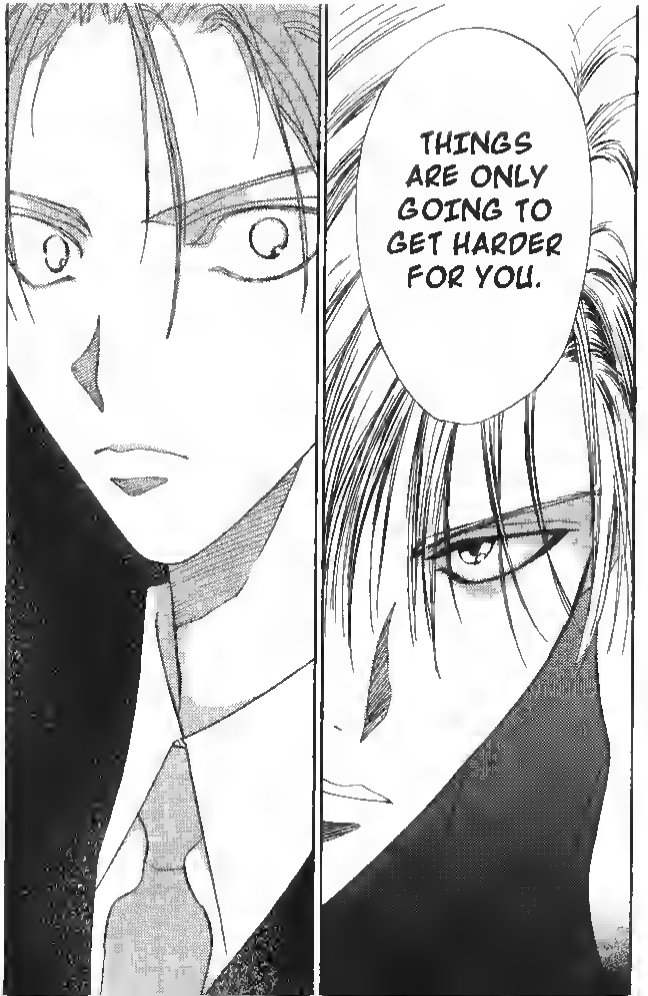
YOU SURPRISED ME YESTERDAY, YOU KNOW

.....

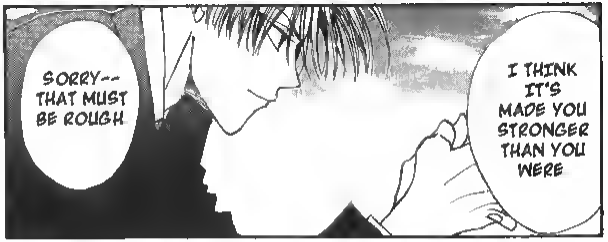
HEY!

Ha ha! Sorry


H-HOLY..!!
..GOLD?!
HE'S ACTUALLY...


THINGS ARE ONLY GOING TO GET HARDER FOR YOU.

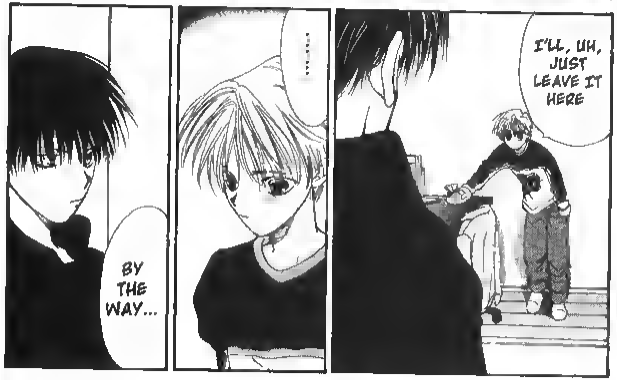
. YOU STILL MANAGED TO BREAK THROUGH.
DESPITE THE STOPPER I PUT ON YOUR POWERS...

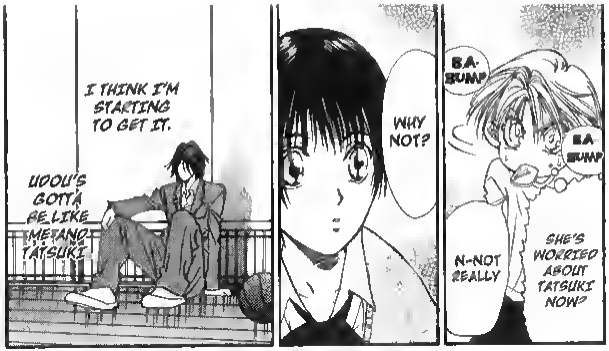

SORRY-- THAT MUST BE ROUGH.
I THINK IT'S MADE YOU STRONGER THAN YOU WERE

LISTEN TO ME.
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

OH, YEAH? DON'T FORGET WHO ELSE RAISED HELL TO HELP YOU, KID.
!
MAYBE THE PSYCH'S WHY HE'S GOOD AT TEACHING
AND, Y'KNOW HE REALLY BAILED ME OUT YESTERDAY
I DON'T GET IT
HE DIDN'T EVEN UNTIE ME, YUUTO WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
HUNH I-I GUESS SO
BUT MAN...
HUH?
HAVE YOU THANKED YOUR COUSIN FOR YESTERDAY YET?
NOW, THEN
HOMEMADE COOKIES FOR ALL.
HERE
WOW-- YOU ROCK!
KOTAROU?
HEY, MIO!
WHAT, YOU DIDN'T HEAR?
UDOU-SENSEI'S MOVING TO AMERICA.
GOD KNOWS WHEN HE'LL SLINK UP AGAIN
I'M GLAD THAT'S OVER
I THINK WE COULD ALL USE A BREAK FROM SEÑOR UDOU.
I THINK HE'S INTERNING FOR SOME PSYCHOLOGIST OR SOMETHING.
He's wicked smart
YEAH-- HE'S GOING TO SCHOOL THERE.
AMERICA?!

MIO WANTED ME TO GIVE THESE TO YOU.
TATSUKI?
CREEE
knock knock


BY THE WAY...
I'LL, UH, JUST LEAVE IT HERE


I THINK I'M STARTING TO GET IT.
UGOU'S GOTTA BE LIKE IMEFANO TATSUKI
WHY NOT?
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
N-NOT REALLY
SHE'S WORRIED ABOUT TATSUKI NOW?

GIMME A BREAK.
THAT WAS MY JOB BEFORE YOU SHOWED YOUR UGLY MUG.

THOSE TWO FRIENDS OF YOURS NEED SOMEONE TO LOOK AFTER THEM
DO ME A FAVOR
THINK YOU'RE UP TO THAT?

I BET HE GOT AS BOTHERED AS THE REST OF US WATCHING TATSUKI'S ISSUES
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HE DID TO HELP, THOUGH

YOU FOUND ME.
AND YOU HELPED ME. I-I KNOW THAT.

SO, UM... THANKS.
BESIDES, THE ONE WHO CAN SAVE YOU...
..HAS BEEN WITH YOU ALL ALONG.

THINGS ARE ONLY GOING TO GET HARDER FOR YOU.
BUT RELAX, OKAY?
YOU CAN TAKE THINGS ONE STEP AT A TIME.

YUUTO AND MIO THOUGHT I SHOULD TALK TO YOU.
YOU KNOW

ABOUT THE GAME.
IT, UH...
..IT MEANT A LOT TO ME, GETTING TO PLAY

LISTEN TO ME.

ACT 9

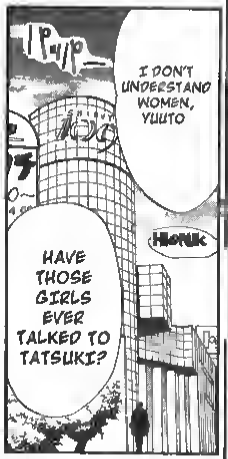
★ACT 8★ END

ACT 9

SNAP
PART II
HEY, DIDJA SEE THIS?!
IT'S THE NEWEST ISSUE OF STREET SHOT!*
OMIGOD, I KNOW! SOMEONE SENT IN A PICTURE OF TATSUKI!
What?
I LOVE HIS GLOWER IT'S SO YUMMY!
AND LOOK, KOTAROU!
He's so cute!
THE OOHIRAS WIN THE HOTTIE CROWN THIS MONTH FOR SURE.

*A JAPANESE MAGAZINE THAT HAS CANDID PHOTOS OF GOOD-LOOKING BOYS SENT IN BY READERS

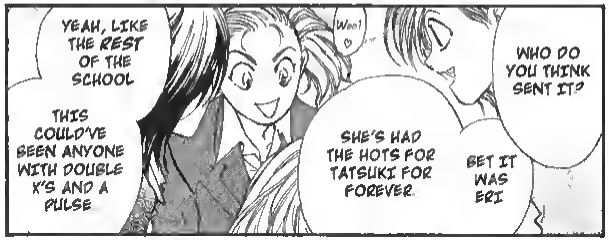
ACT 9


I DON'T UNDERSTAND WOMEN, YUUTO
HONK
HAVE THOSE GIRLS EVER TALKED TO TATSUKI?

BASED ON THEIR IMPRESSIONS, PROBABLY NOT
CLICK

ASK ME IF I CARE.
NOT TO MENTION AN ASSHOLE!

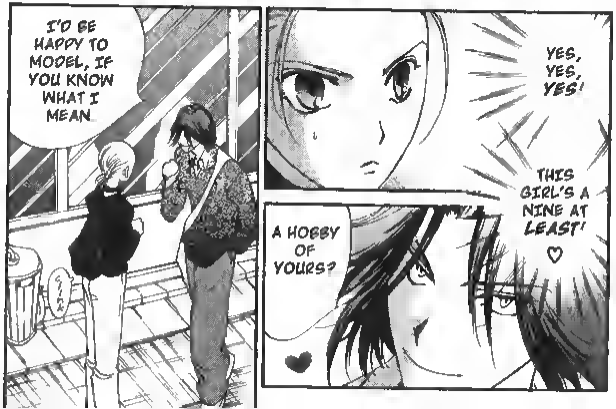
NOT AT ALL
DAMN.
AMUSED


YEAH, LIKE THE REST OF THE SCHOOL
THIS COULD'VE BEEN ANYONE WITH DOUBLE X'S AND A PULSE
Woo!
SHE'S HAD THE HOTS FOR TATSUKI FOR FOREVER.
WHO DO YOU THINK SENT IT?
BET IT WAS ERI

I DON'T GET IT. HOW CAN YOU HONESTLY WANT A GUY WHO NEVER SMILES?
Hey there, stud
HE'S A TOTAL DOWNER
How's fame treating ya?

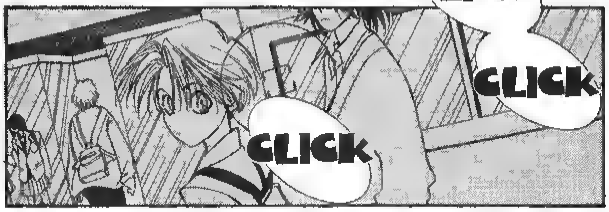
WHATEVER-- TATSUKI'S SO COOL YOU JUST CAN'T HELP IT!
♡ Totally!
STUPID SEXY TATSUKI

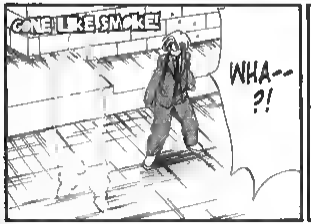
PRETTY COOL CAMERA Y'GOT THERE.
!!
TUP


I'D BE HAPPY TO MODEL, IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
YES, YES, YES!
THIS GIRL'S A NINE AT LEAST! ♡
A HOBBY OF YOURS?

CLICK
CLICK

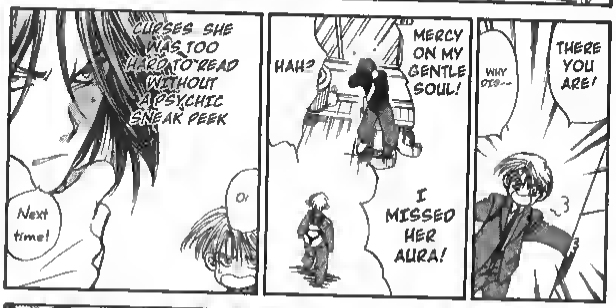
CLICK
CLICK

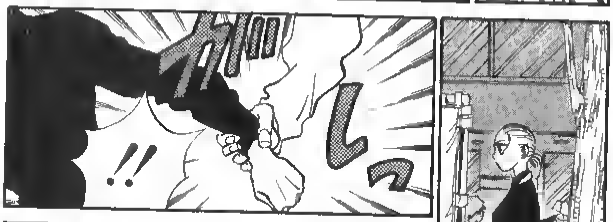

CLICK
CLICK

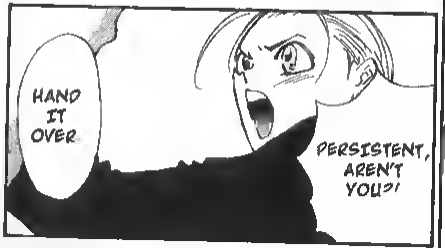

GONE LIKE SMOKE!
WHA--?!

DID YOU JUST--
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?

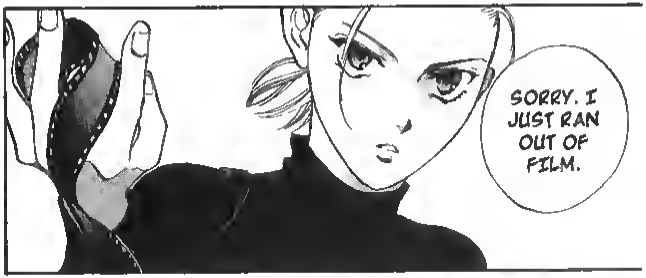
WHAT A WOMAN!

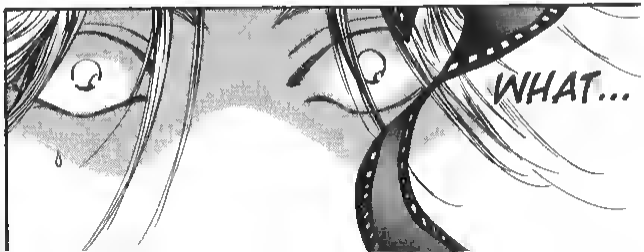

CURSES SHE WAS TOO HARD TO READ WITHOUT A PSYCHIC SNEAK PEEK
Next time!
Or
HAH?
MERCY ON MY GENTLE SOUL!
I MISSED HER AURA!
WHY DID--
THERE YOU ARE!


!!


HAND IT OVER
PERSISTENT, AREN'T YOU?!

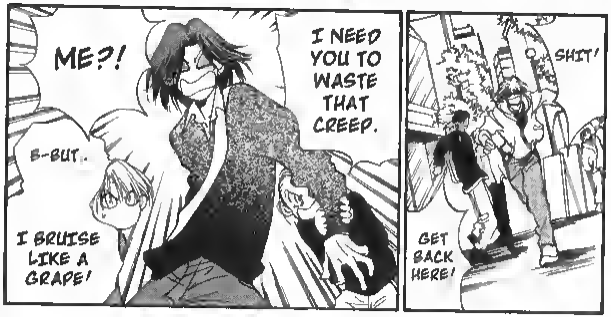
WHA?


SORRY. I JUST RAN OUT OF FILM.

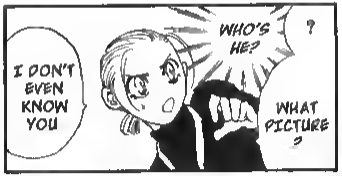

WHAT...

!!

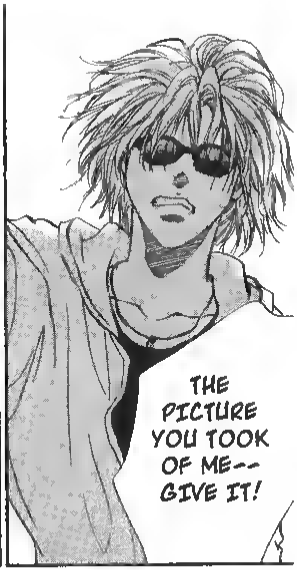
HUH?
WHOA!
YOU AG--
HELP ME!


ME?!
I NEED YOU TO WASTE THAT CREEP.
B-BUT.
I BRUISE LIKE A GRAPE!

SHIT!
GET BACK HERE!


I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU
WHO'S HE?
?
WHAT PICTURE?

WAIT
IN A BACKGROUND, MAYBE?


THE PICTURE YOU TOOK OF ME-- GIVE IT!

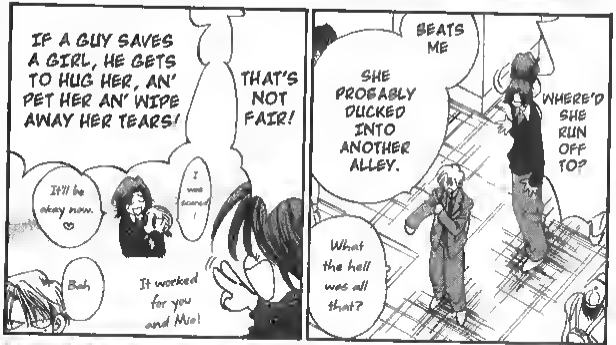
STUPID BITCH!
ざっ

AGH!

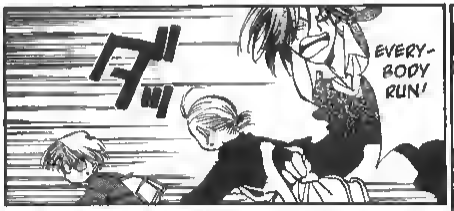
HAND IT OVER!
LET GO OF ME!

HUH? AW, CRAP!
You're not what I want
OI.

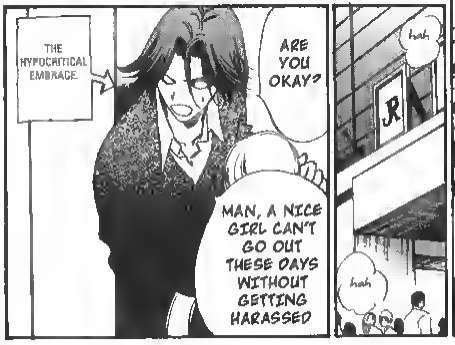
UH, GRAAH!


IF A GUY SAVES A GIRL, HE GETS TO HUG HER, AN' PET HER AN' WIPE AWAY HER TEARS!
THAT'S NOT FAIR!
It'll be okay now. ♡
I was scared!
Bah.
It worked for you and Mio!

BEATS ME
SHE PROBABLY DUCKED INTO ANOTHER ALLEY.
WHERE'D SHE RUN OFF TO?
What the hell was all that?


EVERY-BODY RUN!

Ouch.
Aaah!


THE HYPOCRITICAL EMBRACE.
ARE YOU OKAY?
MAN, A NICE GIRL CAN'T GO OUT THESE DAYS WITHOUT GETTING HARASSED
huh.
huh.

AS IF! LET GO!
HEY, STAY AND HELP!

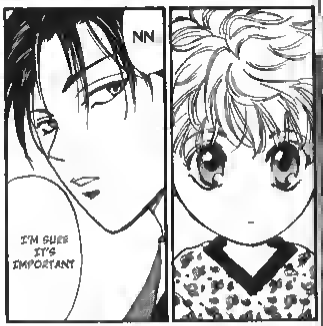
YEAH, GOOD LUCK WITH THAT
MAYBE SHE'S STILL AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE

S...
CAN YOU TEACH ME HOW TO SHOOT LIKE THAT?
SEE YA!
WOOOW!
IT'S LIKE HAVING A LITTLE BROTHER! ♡
SO CUTE!
ACK!
I'LL GET IT.
OOPS!
SKREE
MY BALL!
PAT PAT PAT
!
He's such a sleaze
clump
SCUT
?
TUNK

ACT 9

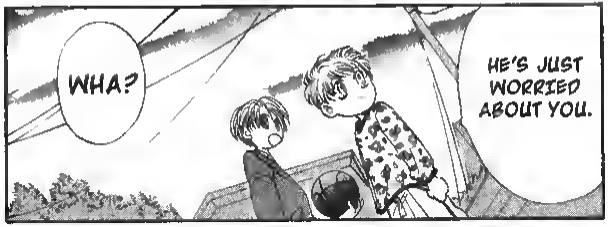
Ha ha!
.....
crunch
KOTAROU'S NOT HOME YET.
WAS HE WORKING TONIGHT?
NO. HE WAS PLAYING WITH SOME KID EARLIER.
WAIT!

I'M BUSY.
YEAH ?
YOU CAN STOP STARING


NN
I'M GUES IT'S IMPORTANT

CAN IT, CREEP!

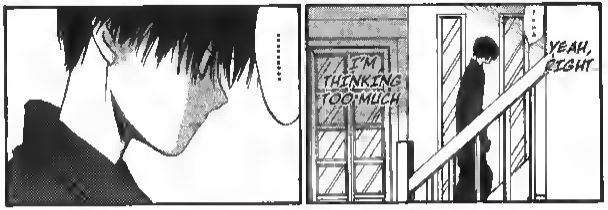
TATSUKI?
WHAT DOES HE WANT?


WHA?
HE'S JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

ACT 9

DEFINITELY THINKING TOO MUCH
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
In such a friggin' rush
WHEW! YOU STARTLED ME!
WAIT
IS THE GUY OUT THERE A FRIEND OF YOURS?
WHO'S THAT?
WHAT GUY?
I'D BETTER CHECK.

SOMETHING'S WRONG...
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
WHY DO I SUDDENLY FEEL...


I'M THINKING TOO MUCH
YEAH, RIGHT

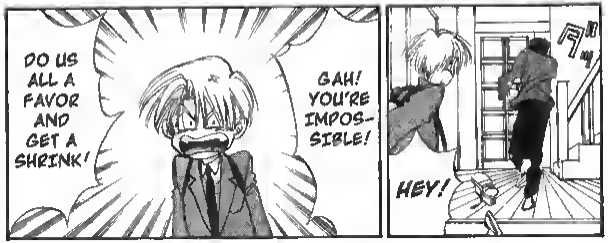
AGH!

ACT 9

ACT 9

EYE, GRAMPA
HAVE FUN AT SCHOOL
!
ARE YOU TWO FIGHTING?
.....
Grr!
MOVE IT, JACKASS!
YOU'RE IN MY WAY!
EXCUSE ME..

TATSUKI!
SHIT.
WHAT'S HE DOING TO ME?!


DO US ALL A FAVOR AND GET A SHRINK!
GAH! YOU'RE IMPOS-SIBLE!
HEY!

THERE IT IS AGAIN.
HE RUNS LATE AND I FREAK OUT.
DAMMIT-- I'M LOSING IT.

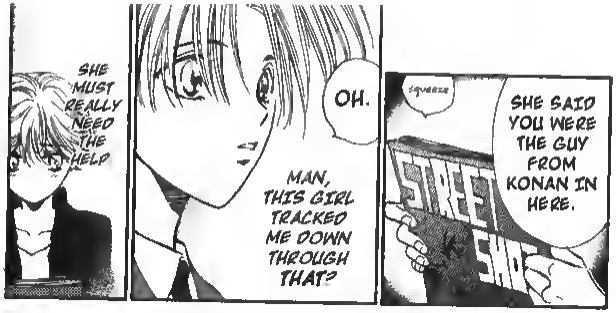
?
I CAN'T TAKE MUCH MORE OF THIS!

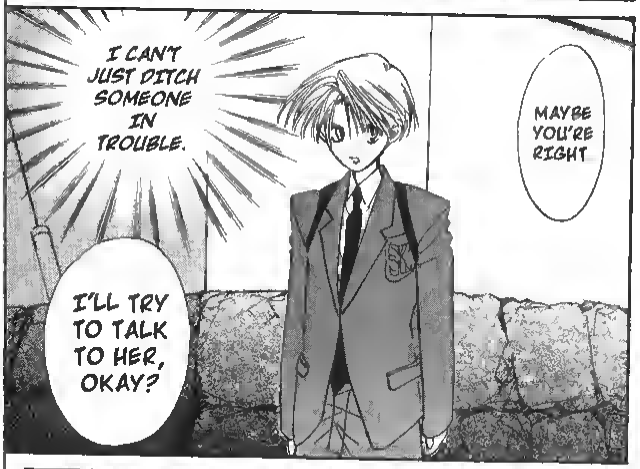
TAT-SUKI, WAIT UP!
.....
ACK-- SORRY!
TATSUKI
UM, CLASS STARTS SOON.

UM, ARE YOU KOTAROU?
I NEED YOUR HELP.

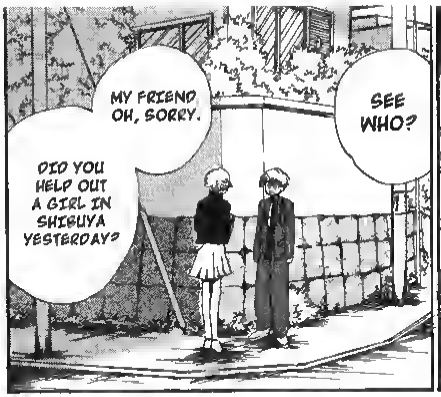
NO, HE LEFT HOME BEFORE ME
WHERE'S KOTAROU? I WANNA BUG HIM
IS HE OUT SICK?

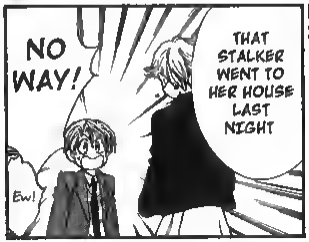
AW, MAN.


SHE MUST REALLY NEED THE HELP
OH.
MAN, THIS GIRL TRACKED ME DOWN THROUGH THAT?
squeeze
SHE SAID YOU WERE THE GUY FROM KONAN IN HERE.
STREET SHOE


I CAN'T JUST DITCH SOMEONE IN TROUBLE.
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT
I'LL TRY TO TALK TO HER, OKAY?

キィィ!!

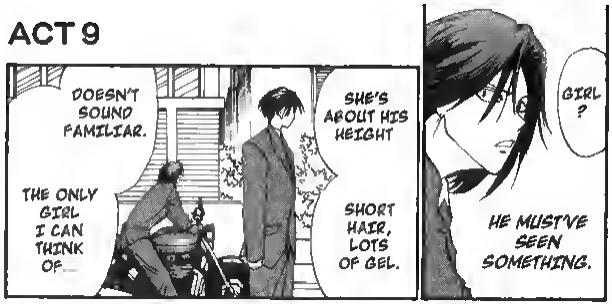

MY FRIEND OH, SORRY.
SEE WHO?
DID YOU HELP OUT A GIRL IN SHIBUYA YESTERDAY?
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING TO SEE HER AGAIN?


NO WAY!
THAT STALKER WENT TO HER HOUSE LAST NIGHT
Ew!

BUT IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
OH, HER
I DION'T REALLY HELP HER.

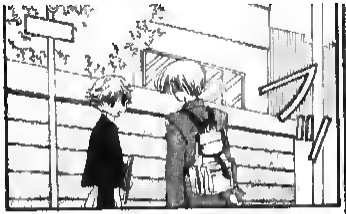
DO YOU SEE MY PROBLEM?
I THOUGHT MAYBE SHE'D BE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH YOU, SINCE YOU SAVED HER AND ALL.
SHE'S REALLY TERRIFIED-- SHE WON'T LEAVE HER PLACE OR ANYTHING.
I WANNA HELP HER, BUT SHE'S TOO SCARED TO TALK...

ACT 9


DOESN'T SOUND FAMILIAR.
THE ONLY GIRL I CAN THINK OF—
SHE'S ABOUT HIS HEIGHT
SHORT HAIR, LOTS OF GEL.
GIRL?
HE MUST'VE SEEN SOMETHING.

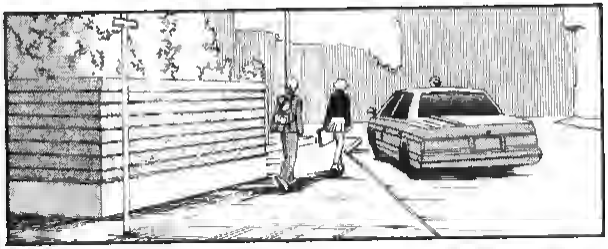
AND STRONG EYEBROWS, POUTY LIPS AND—WAIT
YEAH—THAT ONE.
IS THAT BRUNETTE FROM YESTERDAY
BUT SHE HAD A PONYTAIL

!!
I TAKE IT YOUR LITTLE FRIEND FROM YESTERDAY IS MISSING
HOLY BEJEEZUS!
WHERE'D YOU COME FROM?!

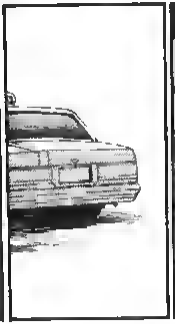


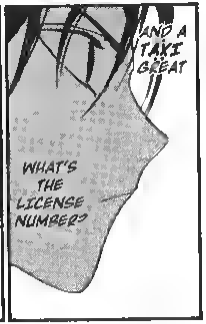
A GIRL.
THERE.

?
NOW WHAT?



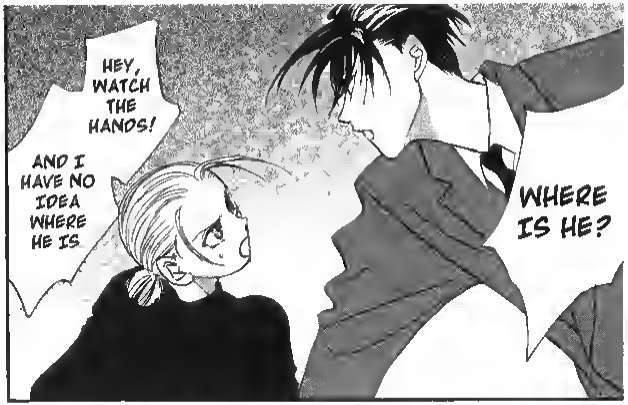
HEY
DAMMIT.
DOES HE KNOW SOME BLOND GIRL?




AND A TAXI GREAT
WHAT'S THE LICENSE NUMBER?

ACT 9

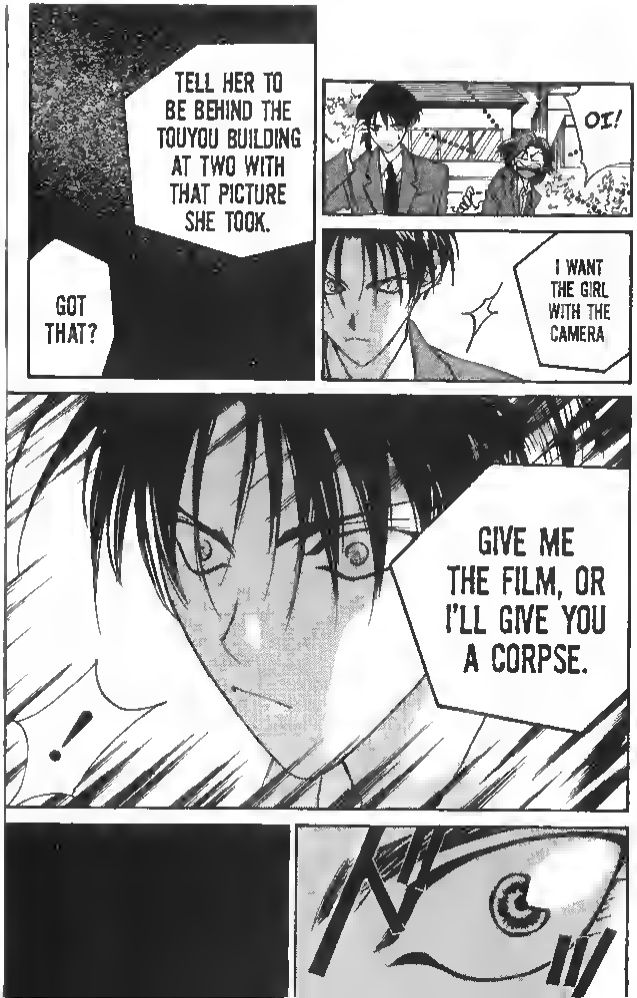
EASY, TATSUKI
WHY'RE YOU SO PISSED?
THAT'S ASSAULT, PSYCHO!
OW!
I DON'T EVEN HAVE A CLUE.
I CAN'T FIND HIM.
SHE SAID SHE'D HELP US!
THE FACT THAT I'M HELPLESS...
...IS SCARING ME TO DEATH.
I'VE NEVER FELT SO BLIND.

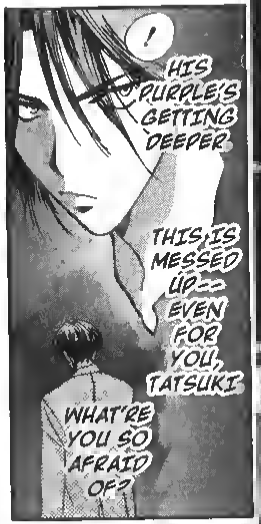

HEY, WATCH THE HANDS!
AND I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE HE IS.
WHERE IS HE?

WHY?
I'M HERE TO HELP YOU
WE CAN LOOK FOR HIM TOGETHER.

MY PHOTOGRAPHER'S INSTINCTS ARE BURNING ON THIS ONE.
'CAUSE I WANT TO!

.....
I DON'T MISS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GOOD SHOTS.


TELL HER TO BE BEHIND THE TOUYOU BUILDING AT TWO WITH THAT PICTURE SHE TOOK.
GOT THAT?
OI!
I WANT THE GIRL WITH THE CAMERA
GIVE ME THE FILM, OR I'LL GIVE YOU A CORPSE.
!


!
HIS PURPLE'S GETTING DEEPER.
THIS IS MESSED UP-- EVEN FOR YOU, TATSUKI.
WHAT'RE YOU SO AFRAID OF?

THAT'S GOTTA BE KOYAZOU!
BEEP BEEP

ばっ
HEL--

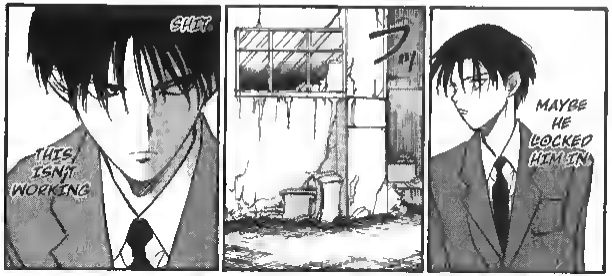
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?
I'M... FREEZING UP AND BREAKING APART...
STOP IT!
SOMEBODY, STOP IT!

ACT 9

WHAT GUY?
slap
!
A GUY YOU PHOTO-GRAPHED
GIVE ME THE FILM
HE WAS KIDNAPPED
WHA?!
YOU'RE KIDDING!
GOD, THAT FREAK IS SICK!
NOT THAT NUTCASE FROM YESTERDAY!
EEEEEk!
IF YOU RECALL, I DESTROYED IT BECAUSE OF SOME PICKUP ARIST!
WHY'S IT GONE?
THE FILM'S GONE
KOTAROU!
.....

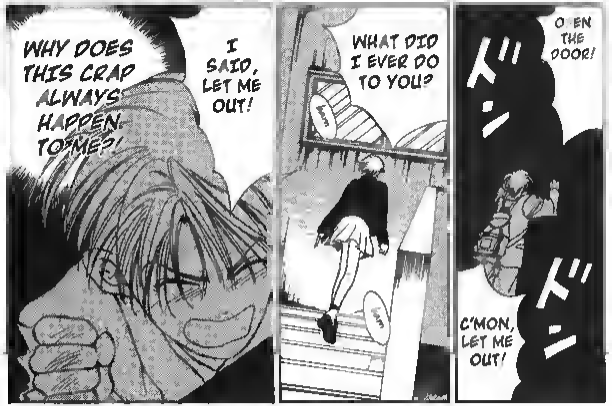
ドン
ドン
ドゥーン
IT WAS SOMEWHERE DARK AND NARROW!
BUT THAT WASN'T THE LAST OF HERE
THERE
WHAT'S WRONG, TATSUKI?
WHO WAS THAT?
.....
GOOD GOD.
DID HIS EYES JUST CHANGE COLOR?

ACT 9

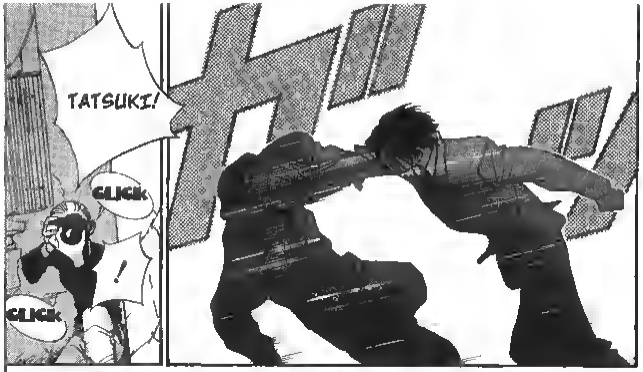

CRAP.
THIS ISN'T WORKING.
MAYBE HE LOCKED HIM IN.

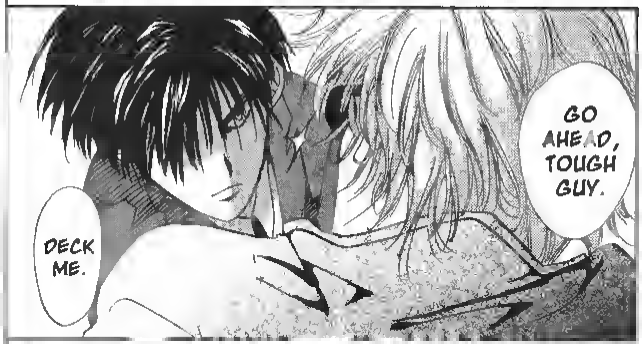
crunch
WHO THE HELL'RE YOU?

I ASKED FOR THE GIRL.
YEAH, LIKE WE'D SEND HER TO YOUR CRAZY ASS.
WE'VE GOT WHAT YOU'RE AFTER, PERVERT.

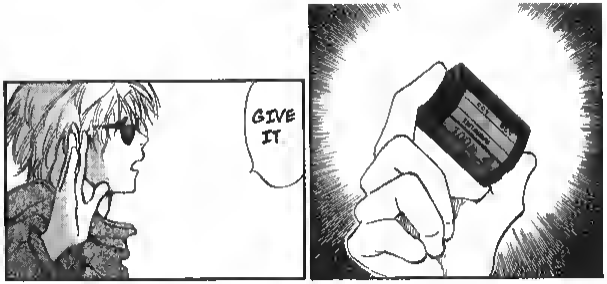

WHY DOES THIS CRAP ALWAYS HAPPEN TO ME?!
I SAID, LET ME OUT!
WHAT DID I EVER DO TO YOU?
OPEN THE DOOR!
C'MON, LET ME OUT!

IT'S 2:30, TATSUKI.
I HOPE YOU GOT THE PLACE RIGHT.


TATSUKI!
CLICK
CLICK
!


GO AHEAD, TOUGH GUY.
DECK ME.

TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT.
TAKE IT!
YOU REALLY THINK I CAME ALONE?
YOUR BOY-FRIEND'LL BE DEAD BEFORE I HIT THE FLOOR.


GIVE IT

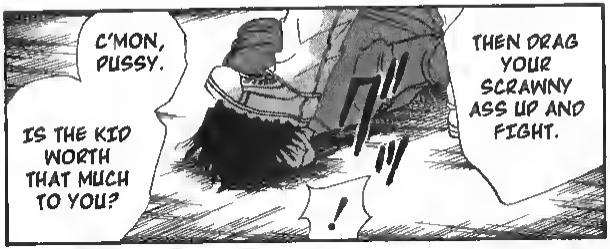
SPIT TALKING
WHERE IS HE?
.....
ピンポーン
ぱしゃ

NOT SO FAST, SUNSHINE.
THE KID STAYS WITH ME UNTIL THIS GETS DEVELOPED.
NOW GET LOST.

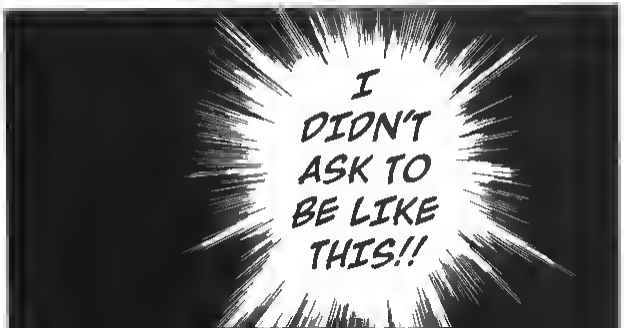
WHO?
WHO'S THE BITCH TO YOU, ANYWAY?!
IF TAKU SENT YOU, YOU'RE ALL DEAD!
HE FINDS THIS OUT AND HE'LL KILL ME!
!
HE'S... HE'S TAKING IT FOR KOTAROU
STOP IT!
HIS EYES...!
YOU'RE STILL CONSCIOUS?

!!
CRUD, THIS IS BAD!
OR AIN'T YOU MAN ENOUGH?!
BUT TATSUKI'S AURA'S ZERO
SO HE'S JUST TAKING IT?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS
THAT GUY'S ACTUALLY SCHOOLING TATSUKI!
HUH?
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK

I-I KNOW THAT.
THE CLOSER WE BECOME...
...THE WORSE MY POWER GETS.
HE CHANGED SOMETHING IN ME.
I NEVER WANTED THAT.


C'MON, PUSSY.
IS THE KID WORTH THAT MUCH TO YOU?
THEN DRAG YOUR SCRAWNY ASS UP AND FIGHT.

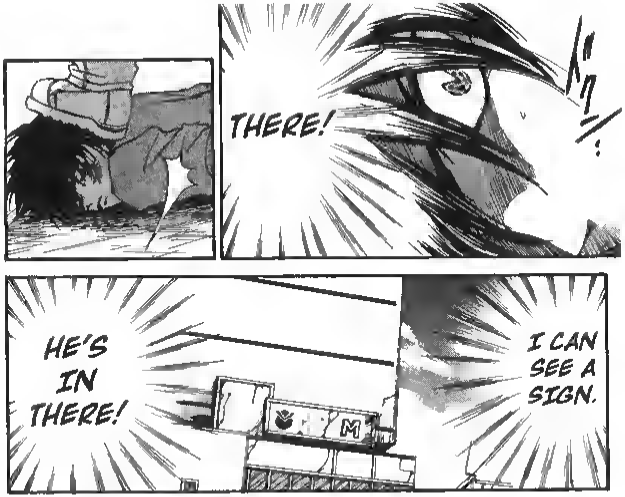
YOU'RE SURE ON YOUR WAY, MAN.
UNLESS YOU WANNA DIE FOR HIM?
SICK LITTLE FREAK.


I DIDN'T ASK TO BE LIKE THIS!!

BUT I NEED HIM, GODDAMMIT.

ACT 9

WHO IS IT?
RRGHH
NOW'S A BAD TIME
TATSUKI!
WHAT ARE YOU--
RING RING
THUNK
YOUR LITTLE FRIEND IS DEAD!
DO YOU THINK WE'RE BLUFFING?!
HOW DARE YOU HURT KEITA, YOU BASTARD!
QQ/


THERE!
HE'S IN THERE!
I CAN SEE A SIGN.

SLP
HUH?

AAAGH!
DRIP
SHE JUST STABBED ME!
HOLY... GGGH!
I C-CAN'T MOVE!

HEY!

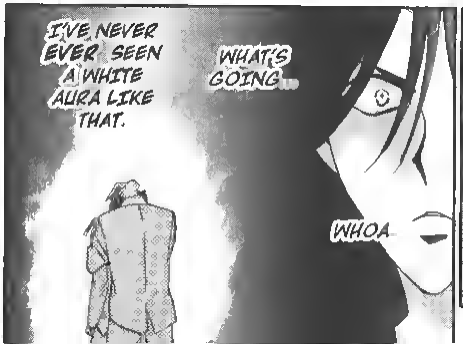
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!

YOU SONS OF BITCHES!
WHY COULDN'T YOU JUST GIVE US THE FILM?!
WHA ?
KEITA'S GONNA DIE BECAUSE OF YOU!

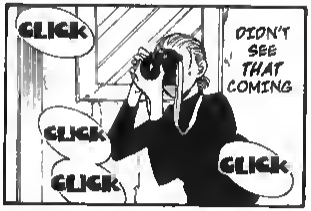
YAAAH!
OW!
OW!
HUH?
BUT...
WHA...?

WHAT?!

TA...
UMM...
TATSUKI?


I'VE NEVER EVER SEEN A WHITE AURA LIKE THAT.
WHAT'S GOING...
WHOA

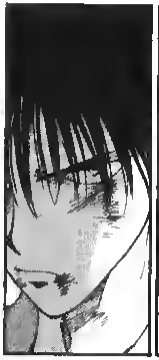
KOTAR--
!

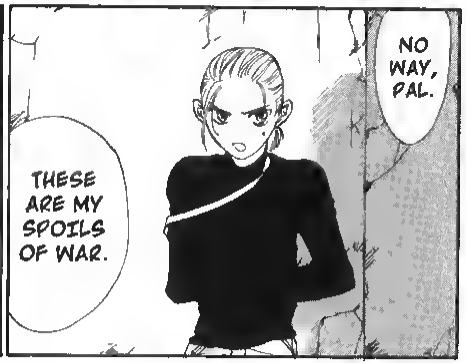

CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
CLICK
DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING

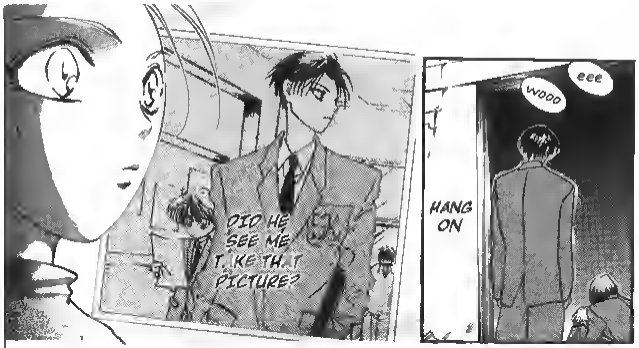
WAS THAT AURA FROM TOUCHING KOTAROU?
!
GIVE THE FILM TO ME.

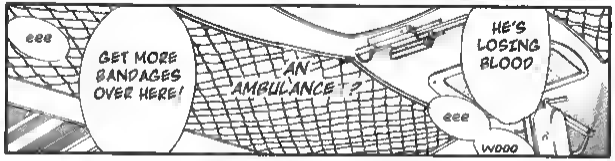
WHAT WAS THAT FOR?
EASY. ARE YOU OKAY?

UGH!




THESE ARE MY SPOILS OF WAR.
NO WAY, PAL.

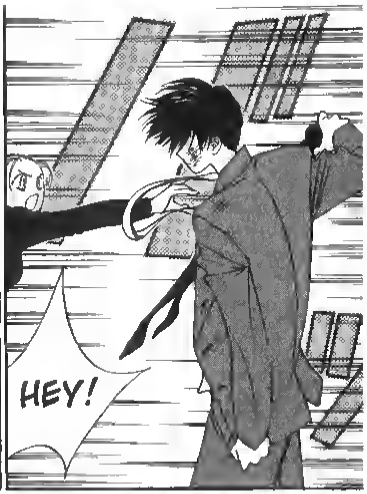

DID HE SEE ME TAKE THAT PICTURE?
HANG ON
WOOO
eee


eee
GET MORE BANDAGES OVER HERE!
AN AMBULANCE!?
HE'S LOSING BLOOD
eee
WOOO

HANG IN THERE, KID!
I CAN FEEL SOMETHING
WOOO
NNN

eee
WOOO
SOMEONE'S HOLDING MY HAND
eee

DON'T YOU-- AGH!


HEY!

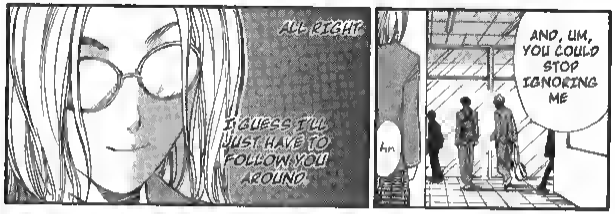
WAY TO BE A JERK!

!!
STAY AWAY FROM ME.
SCREW AROUND AGAIN AND YOU'LL LOSE MORE THAN FILM.

MAN, TATSUKI.
WHAT'S GOING ON INSIDE THAT HEAD OF YOURS?
...IF I GET IN TROUBLE, HE ALWAYS HELPS ME OUT.
THAT'S RIGHT
Lots of blue sky!
IT'S WEIRD, REALLY.
HE'S LOOKED OUT FOR ME SINCE I CAME TO TOKYO.

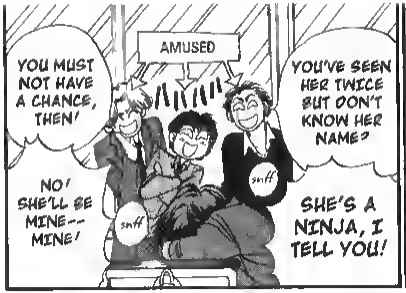
A PIECE OF THAT UTILITY KNIFE BROKE OFF IN MY LEG AND I NEEDED AN OPERATION TO REMOVE IT.
Hurt like hell!
THAT HAPPY LITTLE AFFAIR LANDED ME IN THE HOSPITAL FOR A WEEK.
CRAZY IS RIGHT, YOU DELIN-QUENT!
APPARENTLY HE WAS MEETING A RIVAL GANG AND HE THOUGHT IT GOT CAUGHT ON FILM
CRAZY WORLD, HUH?
HEY, GRAMPA-- I'M IN THE PAPER!
IT SAYS THAT NUTCASE WAS IN A GANG
YOU AND TATSUKI ARE TOO MUCH FOR MY HEART!
"SORRY" WON'T GIVE ME BACK THE YEARS YOU SCARED OFF! I'M AN OLD MAN, KOTAROU!
GRAMPA... I SAID I WAS SORRY.

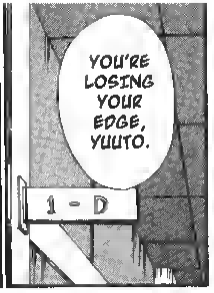
LET'S GO TOGETHER
WE COULD BUY SOME FLOWERS!
AH.
SO YOU'RE GOING TOO, ARE YOU?


ALL RIGHT.
I GUESS I'LL JUST HAVE TO FOLLOW YOU AROUND.
AND, UM, YOU COULD STOP IGNORING ME
hm

YOU'RE ALL FAR TOO MUCH FUN TO PASS UP.

★ACT 9★ END


AMUSED
YOU MUST NOT HAVE A CHANCE, THEN!
NO! SHE'LL BE MINE--MINE!
sniff
sniff
YOU'VE SEEN HER TWICE BUT DON'T KNOW HER NAME?
SHE'S A NINJA, I TELL YOU!


YOU'RE LOSING YOUR EDGE, YUUTO.
1 - D

YES
KOTAROU WILL NEED THIS.
COULD YOU BRING IT TO HIM?

sniff
I EVEN MISSED HER AURA. OH, WOE IS ME!
OOHIRA.

I'M ALREADY GOING TO THE HOSPITAL
snatch
I GOT IT, MAN.

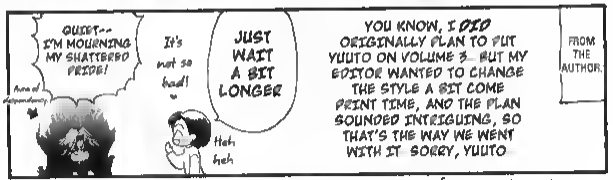
!

CONGRATULATIONS ON SURVIVING THREE VOLUMES! A VERY SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY INTERVIEW.
All better!
ba-bump
ba-bump
THIS IS MIO YOSHINO REPORTING
WE'RE HERE TO TALK TO OUR THREE HEROES ABOUT THEIR FUTURE PLANS.

AND TATSUKI?
DON'T DRAW ME ANY MORE.
YUUTO?
WHAT YOU'VE SEEN SO FAR IS JUST PROLOGUE, MY DEAR
MY IRRESISTIBLE QUALITIES WILL SOON BE SHARED BY ALL.
KOTAROU?
UM, I'D LIKE TO GET BETTER AT BASKETBALL AND SPEND MORE TIME WITH MIO
OH! AND I'D LIKE TO BE MORE BADASS SO I CAN STOP GETTING KIDNAPPED.
Impossible

AFTERWORD END

I'VE BEEN WORKING ON MY HAIR AND POSE FOR MONTHS!
HANDS OFF!
LOOK AT THESE! BOTH YOU AND TATSUKI GOT COVERS TO YOURSELVES!
HOW COME VOLUME 3'S NOT MY TIME TO SHINE, HUH? HUH?
UM.. THAT'S NOT REALLY MY DEPARTMENT
HANDS OFF! 2
Shueisha advertising


QUIET-- I'M MOURNING MY SHATTERED PRIDE!
Aura of dependency
It's not so bad!
JUST WAIT A BIT LONGER
Heh, heh
YOU KNOW, I DID ORIGINALLY PLAN TO PUT YUUTO ON VOLUME 3. BUT MY EDITOR WANTED TO CHANGE THE STYLE A BIT COME PRINT TIME, AND THE PLAN SOUNDED INTRIGUING, SO THAT'S THE WAY WE WENT WITH IT. SORRY, YUUTO
FROM THE AUTHOR

Oh, and thanks to all who sent me letters and pictures and applied for my special events! All the advertising slogans we received rocked! -we'll announce the winners soon

TOKYOPOP®

HANDS OFF!™

Manga
Comedy/Drama
US $9.99
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When student-teacher Udou-sensei shows up at the head of the class, he turns the boys' lives upside-down! As if Tatsuki weren't being put through the wringer enough, Yuuto and Kotarou meet Karen, a beautiful but nosy photographer that ends up pulling the boys into her dangerous world. When Tatsuki's powers begin to act strangely, he suddenly realizes that controlling them is as difficult as ever. But despite the stress, could that be a bit of ice slowly melting from his cold heart?

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